



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2021**

Mayor Schabell called the Alexandria City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the invocation and the pledge to the flag. The following Council Members answering roll call:

Stacey Graus	Present	Steven Shinkle	Present
Joe Anderson	Present	Susan Vanlandingham	Absent
Tom Baldrige	Present	Kyle Sparks	Present

Also: Jan Johannemann, City Clerk Mike Duncan, City Attorney
 Lucas Cooper, Police Chief Capt. James Pape, Alexandria Fire Dept.
 Sam Trapp, Public Works Supt. JoAnn Hackworth, City Treasurer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 15, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Stacey Graus made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2021 regular meeting, seconded by Tom Baldrige. All in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0.

VISITORS AND GUESTS: None

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Duncan read the following:

RES2021-06 Authorizing Mayor Andy Schabell to make application for and, upon arrival, to enter into an agreement with the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security (KOHS) to execute any documents which are deemed necessary by KOHS to facilitate and administer the project and to act as the authorized correspondent for this project.

Chief Cooper explained he is applying for funds for a Law Enforcement Police Protection Grant through the Department of Homeland Security. Alexandria is applying for this grant to purchase new tasers for the entire agency. Some of their tasers are way past their life recommendations. The total cost of new tasers is approximately \$29,000. This grant will cover part of the cost (about \$15,000); the remainder should be covered by monies the city will get from a recent drug forfeiture case he reported on a couple of weeks ago.

MOTION: Steven Shinkle made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-06, seconded by Joe Anderson. All in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Clerk: Since January, the city has seen about 49 new building applications pass through the clerk's office, so there is a lot of new construction in the city. Also, this past weekend there was a children's drum fun class at the Alexandria Community Park hosted by Kim Wagner, held in conjunction with Kids to Parks Day. The class was a lot of fun and she encouraged everyone to take advantage of the events that Kim puts together.

Police Department: April reports are included in council packets. In cooperation with the Campbell County Drug Free Alliance, the police social workers had applied for and were awarded a grant for a program called "Hidden in Plain Sight". There is a trailer in the back lot that will be outfitted to look like a bedroom. This educational program will be on June 1 and 29 at 6:00 p.m., and will allow parents to walk through the bedroom where there are drug paraphernalia and other drug-related items, so they know what to look for. There will be resources available and more information. The trailer was purchased so the PD can take it to different schools and locations in order to talk with parents.

Also, the traffic device now has a new battery, so the PD did a second study on Breckenridge Drive. Between April 26 and May 11, there were a little less than 10,000 cars through that area in that two-week period, and about the same results were collected. However, they did get a better picture of the amount of traffic. The posted speed limit is 20 mph, and the average speed was 21 mph, with the 85th percentile being about 27 mph.

Fire Department: See report attached. Capt. Pape also said open burning ended April 30, so no more open burning until after October 1st. The Fire Department is also accepting applications for a full-time firefighter and a volunteer EMT.

Public Works: See report attached. Sam reported the Street Program has now been advertised for bids, which are due by May 27 at 11:00. The city is also taking applications for a part-time public works position at the Park to help clean up on the weekends.

Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement: Reports attached.

Community Center: See report attached. Mayor Schabell is working with Kim Wagner on the new COVID requirements and how relaxed restrictions will affect the Community Center.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Public Works – Tom Baldrige: The next meeting will be June 3, 6:00 p.m. to discuss the street bids and review the sidewalk program.

Business Retention – Kyle Sparks: There is a lot of construction going on in the City. There are a ton of Alexandria businesses nominated for the Best of Northern Kentucky. The last chance to vote is May 23. There are links on the website and Facebook, or google Best of Northern Kentucky.

Mr. Graus commented on the signage as you get off the AA on 27 advertising the Alexandria restaurants. Anyone coming from West Virginia is not going to turn toward Alexandria when there are restaurants 1-1/2 miles in the other direction. He thinks we could have the same signage at the Connector Road that will take drivers to Alexandria restaurants, and it is ridiculous that the State would not have the same sign there. Mr. Sparks explained the state wants businesses to pay for that exposure, and up until this time there were none of the businesses were willing to pay, and it is not cheap. He continues to talk with some businesses, and was hoping to get the smaller businesses on the sign rather than the big chains. The sign on AA heading south does have one spot available and he will continue to work on this. Mr. Graus said this hurts our community by not generating revenue.

Finance – Stacey Graus: There was a lengthy meeting tonight and we are very close to finalizing the 2021/22 budget. Hopefully, it will be finalized by the first council meeting in June.

Safety – Joe Anderson: The next meeting will be June 17, 6:30 p.m.

Personnel – Steven Shinkle: The next meeting will be on June 17 at 6:00 p.m.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Franchise Agreements for Gas and Electric: Mr. Duncan explained the franchises were created by ordinance earlier this year and they were put out to bid. The city did receive bids for electric franchises from Owen Electric and Duke Energy, and bid for gas franchise from Duke Energy. Another ordinance should be adopted authorizing the franchise to those entities, which will allow the Mayor to enter into a franchise agreement. The bids were opened during a Zoom meeting on Monday (memo attached). Since that time, Mr. Duncan has contacted both entities and obtained the franchise

agreements they use, along with a coverage map showing where Owen Electric's service is; the remainder is covered by Duke. Ordinances should be ready for first reading by the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID 19 Update: Mayor Schabell participated in meetings this week with Gov. Beshear, and Dr. Lynne Sadler on the Judge Pendery's call. On June 11, most COVID restrictions will go away with a couple of exceptions. This a good step back to normal. Currently, vaccinated people do not have to wear a mask per CDC and Gov. Beshear, except in certain settings.

There was also discussion about the American Rescue Plan. Our projected amount went from \$1.7 to \$2.5 million, but it is still not firm and we are not exactly sure what the city can spend it on. There should be more meetings to find out. The money has to be obligated by December, 2024, so there is time to come up with a good idea to create some good things.

Dr. Sadler said there are currently 43 active cases in Campbell County, 83 deaths, and 8,785 total cases since the beginning. Cases are dropping and Campbell County has 45% of its residents vaccinated, the 5th highest percentage in Kentucky. There are currently 2.1 cases per 100,000 people. Restaurants and businesses will be able to increase capacity to 75% on May 28th, and then to 100% on June 11. The Community Center will be able to start booking full events after June 11. This is good news all the way around.

At the Governor's meeting, the question was asked about state of emergencies. The US and the State of Kentucky are still under a state of emergency, so the city will follow suit. There are still some legal obligations with FEMA, etc. that necessitate being in a state of emergency.

Wireless Sound System: The Mayor had commented at the last meeting about looking into a new wireless sound system. After meeting with Jennifer at Campbell Media and receiving a couple of higher-than-expected bids for new systems, the Mayor learned that every microphone has to have a receiver, batteries, and be kept charged. So, the city is not going to pursue the wireless option, but will work with Campbell Media to get the appropriate speakers for the Community Center and purchase some additional microphones and equipment for a lot less money.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Tom Baldrige: He congratulated all who have been vaccinated.

Kyle Sparks: He reiterated the Best of Northern Kentucky and all of the Alexandria businesses on the list. He thinks the North and South Welcome to Alexandria signs look really nice. The new rocks that were put in were a big improvement. This is a good tribute to Dave Hart.

Mayor Schabell noted someone had made a list, including the links, of all the Alexandria businesses on the Best of NKY. He will post it on the City's Facebook page.

Also, Mr. Sparks mentioned the new Alexandria website has a lot of good information. There is a new tab at the top right for "Alexandria Businesses" to find contact information.

Stacey Graus: He hopes everyone takes the opportunity to get vaccinated so we can get past this. Talk to your doctor first.

Joe Anderson: Mr. Anderson also got his vaccination and encouraged others to do so. Regarding a new city sign, he had talked to several businesses, but narrowed it down to two who seemed adequate. One company did the signs at Cold Spring Baptist Church and Cold Spring Fire Department, and possibly the Crescent Springs city building sign. These companies want to view the site, see about zoning requirements, check on electric before giving an estimate. He asked if council wanted them to do this. Mr. Graus suggested we should get estimates. We can then see what the

numbers look like for the budget and possibly see if this could be paid for by the American Relief Fund monies. Mr. Sparks would like to set some goals and a deadline to get this done as soon as we can. He wants to see if the city can use the Am. Relief Fund monies or find money in the budget. Mr. Graus asked Joann to plug in \$30,000 into the budget and see where it comes out. There was also discussion on the type of sign and the location, and the necessity that the sign be movable. Mr. Graus thinks it should be on 27. Council will re-visit this at the next meeting.

Steven Shinkle: He also encouraged everyone to vote for the Best of NKY. There are lot of good businesses in Alexandria and we need to pay tribute to them. Also, he is looking forward to the June 5th Fishing Derby and plans to be there with his son.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- June 2, 7:00 p.m. Planning & Zoning
- June 2, 7:00 p.m. Park & Recreation

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Free Yoga at the Park on Tuesdays in May from 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- May 30 – No Memorial Day Parade, but there will be a service at the VFW at 2:00 p.m.
- May 31 – Memorial Day (offices closed)
- June 5, 10:00 a.m. Fishing Derby at Alexandria Community Park; Hot Dogs provided by the Kiwanis
- June 4, 5, 6 – Free Fishing Weekend in Kentucky
- June 4 – Sunfish will be stocked at the lake

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


MOTION: Tom Baldrige made a motion to go into executive session, pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(b) to discuss a real estate matter, seconded by Steven Shinkle. All in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0. The executive session began at 7:37 p.m.

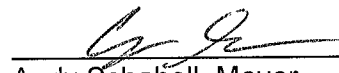
MOTION: Tom Baldrige made a motion to return to Regular Session at 7:57 p.m., seconded by Steven Shinkle. All in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0.

The Executive Session will be continued at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Kyle Sparks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tom Baldrige. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.


 Jan Johannemann, City Clerk
 Date: 6/3/2021


 Andy Schabell, Mayor
 Date: 6/3/2021